

1 inch shorter; bill to frontal plumes $\frac{2}{10}$ ths; to gape $\frac{5}{12}$ ths; and tarse $\frac{7}{12}$ ths of an inch.

Hab. China. In the collection of John Gould, Esq.

3. *ORITES* (?) *NIVEOGULARIS*, Gould, MS.

Forehead white, passing to buff-brown on the back of the head, nape, and fore-part of the back, and thence to the tail grey, tinged with isabelline on the rump; lores, over the eyes and ear-coverts black, passing into the brown on the nape; ear-coverts blackish anteriorly and brownish-buff posteriorly, and somewhat striped longitudinally with white; base of lower mandible, chin, throat, fore-part of breast, and sides of the neck to the nape behind the ear-coverts snowy-white, and contrasting with a brownish band which runs from the nape across the middle of the breast; the lower part of the breast with the abdomen pale pinky-isabelline passing to white in the middle of the belly: wings brown, margined with greyish-white, coverts and speculars blackish: tail dusky-black, margined externally with greyish-white, its outermost feathers white on the outer web. Bill black, longish, and slender as in *O. jouschistos*, Hodgson; feet yellowish.

Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail $2\frac{5}{8}$ ths, its outermost feather $\frac{1}{2}$ inch shorter; bill to frontal plumes $\frac{3}{10}$ ths to $\frac{5}{10}$ ths; tarse $\frac{7}{12}$ ths of an inch.

Hab. N. India. In the collection of John Gould, Esq.

Remark.—These three new species, together with *O. erythrocephalus*, Vigors, and *O. jouschistos*, Hodgs., will, I believe, upon further examination, prove to form two separate divisions, distinct from the genus *Orites*; the species named *erythrocephalus*, *leucogenys*, and *glaucogularis* forming one division, and *jouschistos* with *niveogularis* the second.

NOTICE OF SOME IMPERFECTLY-KNOWN SPECIES OF BIRDS CONTAINED IN THE MUSEUM OF THE HON. EAST INDIA COMPANY. BY FREDERIC MOORE.

Fam. MERULIDÆ, Vigors.

Subfam. BRACHYPODINA, Swainson.

Genus *IXULUS*, Hodgson, P. Z. S. (1845) p. 23.

1. *IXULUS OCCIPITALIS*, Blyth.

Siva occipitalis, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xiii. p. 937. (1844.)

Ixulus occipitalis, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xiv. p. 552. xvi. p. 448;

Cat. B. Mus. A. S. Beng., p. 100.

Hab. Sikim, Nepal. (No. 955, Hodgson's Catalogue.)

“Colour dull brownish olive-green above, the shafts of the dorsal and scapular feathers pale; below much lighter and rufescent, the throat whitish, the feathers of the fore-neck having dark shafts: crown, nape, and lower tail-coverts ferruginous-brown, which also

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tinges the flanks; coronal feathers considerably elongated, and the occiput beneath the crest white; bill black; legs yellowish-brown.

“Length about 5 inches; of wing $2\frac{1}{2}$; tail 2; bill to gape $\frac{1}{8}$ ths; and tarse $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch.”

A single specimen only of this species was collected in Nepal by B. H. Hodgson, Esq.

2. IXULUS CASTANICEPS, Moore, n. sp.

Colour above dull brownish-olive, the shafts of the dorsal and scapular feathers pale; crown dark-chestnut, and subcrested, the frontal plumes short and scaly, and having pale margins, the occiput paler chestnut; behind the eyes whitish; ear-coverts chestnut; wings blackish, the secondaries and tertiaries with pale shafts; axillæ white; tail black, the three outer feathers graduated, and tipped obliquely externally with white, the next white at the extreme tip only, and the rest entirely black; the whole underparts of a dirty ruddy-white colour; bill reddish-brown; legs yellowish.

Length $5\frac{3}{4}$ inches; of wing $2\frac{3}{10}$; tail $2\frac{1}{4}$; its outermost feather $\frac{5}{8}$ ths less; bill to front $\frac{3}{10}$ ths; to gape $\frac{1}{2}$; and tarse $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch.

Hab. Afghanistan.

This species is at once distinguished by the white tips to the tail-feathers.

Genus STACHYRIS, Hodgson, J. A. S. Beng. 1844, p. 378.

3. STACHYRIS RUFICEPS, Blyth.

Stachyris ruficeps, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xvi. p. 452 (1847); Catal. B. Mus. A. S. Beng. p. 150. Bonap. C. G. Av. p. 332.

The rufous-headed *Stachyris*.

Hab. Sikim; Nepal. (No. 923, Hodgson's Catalogue.)

“Allied in form and size to *St. pyrrhops*, but having the crown light ferruginous, and the chin and middle of the throat white, with slight black central streaks to the feathers; rest of the upper parts plain olive, and of the lower whitish, with a fulvous tinge on the sides of the neck and breast” [in some specimens the crown and nape are bright ferruginous, and the whole under-parts pale ferruginous]. Bill and legs pale horn-colour.

Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of wing $2\frac{1}{8}$ th; tail 2 inches; bill to frontal plumes $\frac{4}{10}$ ths; to gape $\frac{6}{10}$ ths; and tarse $\frac{7}{8}$ ths of an inch.

Fam. PIPRIDÆ, Vigors.

Subfam. LEIOTHRICHINA.

Genus LEIOTHRIX, Swanson.

4. LEIOTHRIX CINEREA, Blyth.

Minla cinerea, Blyth, J. A. S. Beng. xvi. p. 449 (1847).

Leiothrix cinerea, Blyth, Catal. B. Mus. A. S. Beng. p. 100.

The grey *Leiothrix*.

Hab. S. E. Himalaya ; Nepal. (No. 671, Hodgson's Catalogue.*)

"Colour olive-grey above, tinged with green; beneath white, tinged on the flanks with ashy, and showing some yellow along the middle of the abdomen; a broad yellowish-white supercilium, and over this a black one; the coronal feathers margined with black, and the cheeks mingled black and white; orbital feathers subdued white; wings and tail without markings, the tertiaries edged with grey, and the secondaries with very faint dull yellowish. Bill yellowish-horny above, paler beneath, legs yellowish."

"Length $4\frac{1}{2}$ inches; of wing $2\frac{1}{4}$; tail $1\frac{3}{4}$; bill to gape nearly $\frac{5}{8}$ ths; and tarse $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch."

Allied in form and size to *L. castaniceps*.

NOTES ON THE HABITS OF INDIAN BIRDS. PART IV.

BY LIEUT. BURGESS.

Family SYLVIADÆ.

Genus THAMNOBIA.

THAMNOBIA FULICATA. INDIAN ROBIN.

This bird is well known in the Deccan, and is found not only about villages, walls and outhouses, but is also common on low stony hills. Dr. Jerdon says that "its familiar habits have gained for it its name of Indian Robin." It breeds during the months of March, April and May, building its nests in holes of walls and rocks, as also in hollows under tussocks of grass. I subjoin some notes on the subject:—"May 9, 1850. When passing outside the wall of a town, an Indian Robin flew off the wall and hovered before me, uttering a sharp hissing cry. Knowing by her manner that she had a nest near, I searched in the wall and found the nest, composed of rotten grass and straw, and some threads of woollen cloth; the nest contained three young ones, quite unfledged; their skin was of a black-lead colour."—"March 19, 1851. Found in a hole in the rocks the nest of the Indian Robin, containing two eggs."—"March 27, 1851. Found the nest of the Robin, containing two eggs, built at the foot of a little tuft of grass, in a hole amongst the roots."

The egg of this bird is of a very pale dusky blue spotted all over with light brown, and a few purplish spots here and there; length rather more than $\frac{8}{10}$ ths of an inch, by $\frac{6}{10}$ ths in width.

Dr. Jerdon says: "I have twice seen the nest of this bird; once, built among a heap of large stones raised from a boury, and the bird made its nest during the time the well was being blasted, and continued the process of incubation till the young ones were hatched, when it was accidentally destroyed. On the other occasion it had built its nest in a hole inside the wall of a house. It has four eggs, light dusky bluish colour, spotted with purplish brown."

* No. 887 of Mr. Hodgson's Catalogue was attached to this bird, which number was previously used for *Loxia himalayana*; the above number being unoccupied, it is retained for the present species.